



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Sustainability Committee

Fire Station #2  
13333 Alpha Link  
Farmers Branch, TX, 75244

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Wednesday, April 10, 2024

6:30 PM

Fire Station #2

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Meeting held at 6:30 PM

**Presiding:** Joseph Riegel (Chairperson)

**Present:** Loren Rives (Vice Chair)  
Price Trosin (Secretary)  
Val Clark  
Suzette Vaquera  
Al Mahesh  
Lisa Massey  
Ted Spradley

**Absent:** Shelby Anders

**Staff:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Joseph Riegel called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**  
**No Citizen Comments**

**C. AGENDA ITEMS**

- C.1 Consider approving minutes for the March 13, 2024 meeting; and take appropriate action**

Al Mahesh made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lisa Massey. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **C.2 Receive a presentation on Farmers Branch Water Conservation Plan**

John Roach of the Public Works Department gave a presentation on the 2024 Water Conservation plan for the City of Farmers Branch. The Water Conservation plan is required by the state to be submitted every five years. The plan must include a utility profile for the city and include water use data for the last five years. The plan must also include five and ten year targets for water use (calculated in gallons per capita per day).

John mentioned efforts the city is conducting to reduce wasted water include leak detection and meter replacement. The city has increased its funding to replace large meters and plans to replace 40 this year. These large meters often undercount the amount of water and contribute to reported water loss.

John also stressed the importance of education and changing personal practices. The water rebate programs recommended by the sustainability committee also are included in the plan.

## **C.3 Receive an update from the committee chairperson**

The Chair of the sustainability committee, Joseph Riegel, informed the committee that he will not seek a second term as a member of the committee. Joseph will be volunteering his time to the Farmers Branch Police Department as a volunteer chaplain moving forward. Elections for officers, including the Chair, will take place in June.

## **C.4 Receive a staff update on sustainability initiatives**

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates to the committee.

- Staff is meeting with RMI consulting for assistance on the re-release of the landfill solar RFP.
- Staff are already working on the FY 24/25 budget
- Alex presented updates on the Active Transportation Plan to other boards and commissions. The City will host a public input event on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>. An online survey has been launched to gain further input from residents.
- Alex attended a climate resilience conference in Dallas.
- Water Rebates – 83 toilet rebates awarded. Irrigation check-up launched
- SolSmart and LEED city participation
- The Lights Out proclamation will be presented at the April 16th city council meeting
- Alex spoke to 45 students about sustainability at Parish Episcopal on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>
- Next meeting May 8, 2024

#### **C.5 Receive an update on the result of the compost survey**

Alex Pharmakis presented the results of the compost survey built by the Built & Natural Environment Subcommittee

- 213 residents completed the survey
- The committee identified areas where composting could be increased by providing educational resources such as a workshop, and promoting the drop off site located at the Citizen's Collection Center.

#### **C.6 Receive subcommittee updates**

- **Built and Natural Environment**
- **Communications**
- **Water Conservation**

Built and Natural Environment

- Wants to assist with composting outreach such as creating videos and providing links to resources.
- Mentioned tabling opportunities and providing a compost bin as a raffle item.

Communications

- Identified tabling opportunities at Denton Drive Live for outreach: May 11, June 1, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Water Conservation

- Al Mahesh raised the concern of brush waste

#### **C.7 Receive an update from Committee members on activities attended**

- Al Mahesh met with Bill Glancy regarding paper recycling, mulching, and reducing stormwater runoff
- Ted Spradley met with Bill Glancy on the same topic and an opportunity at Dallas College – Brookhaven.

**C.8 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings**

- Composting
- Stormwater runoff mitigation
- Traffic signal timing
- Possibility of wildflower zones in parks
- Hosting the Director of Sustainability for Ally to speak to the committee.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Price Trosin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Al Mahesh. All were in favor. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary